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May 22, 2012

Ms. Joan Martin Banks (3HS62)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029



Re: Sauer Dump Site, aka the Cove Road Dump, and the Lynhurst Road
Dump, Dundalk (Baltimore County), Maryland

Dear Ms. Banks:

This letter is in response to the United States Environmental Protection Agency's ("the Agency") Information Request pertaining to the above-captioned Site, which was addressed to Firestone Tire & Rubber Company, c/o Bridgestone/Firestone, Inc., and dated April 23, 2012. The response is submitted on behalf of Bridgestone Retail Operations, LLC ("the Company").

Pursuant to an agreement with Cynthia Nadolski, Assistant Regional Counsel, the Company's response is limited to the following two Company-operated retail store locations: 8049 Ritchie Highway, Pasadena, MD 21122; and 7592 Ritchie Highway, Glen Burnie, MD 21061.

Preliminary Statement

At the outset, the Company denies any implication that a waste disposal connection exists between the Company and the Site which would trigger any potential liability on the part of the Company under the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation Liability Act (CERCLA).

While the Company has carried out a search for the information requested, it should be noted that it objects generally to the Information Request because it is overly broad and insufficiently limited in scope as to time and geographic location. It imposes an undue burden on the Company and, in the absence of any established connection between the Company and the Site, becomes arbitrary and an abuse of discretion.

The Company specifically objects to what it believes is a vague and inaccurate reference to 18 U.S.C. §1001 and the possible penalties thereunder. Any information provided by the Company is based upon a reasonable investigation and search of records kept in the ordinary course of business and the Company's responses are based upon that reasonable investigation. 18 U.S.C.

§1001 applies only to knowing and willful falsifications or concealments and is not applicable to all circumstances wherein the Agency claims that information supplied is false or fictitious.

The Company further objects to the request for the reason that it is beyond the scope of the Agency's authority pursuant to CERCLA §104(e), 42 U.S.C. §9604(e).

In addition, the Company objects to the request to the extent that it purports to impose a continuing obligation upon the Company to submit responsive information which may be discovered at a later time. The Company is unaware of any requirement under CERCLA or otherwise which imposes such an obligation. To date, the only information the Agency has identified which purportedly links the Company to the Site is a summary of an interview conducted on November 18, 2011 of a former driver for Modern Trash Removal, Inc., who, after being prompted by the interviewer, stated that he recalled picking up waste from "The Firestone Company" but did not know contents or amounts. The witness did not identify the location of The Firestone Company. Further, the witness did not recall ever transporting waste to the subject Site and could not state with certainty that he ever transported waste to the Site even after being shown an aerial photograph of the Site. Thus, there is no nexus between the Company and the Site to trigger any potential liability under CERCLA. If the Agency has or later develops other information which it believes may establish a connection between the Company and the Site, the Company requests that such information be supplied. Absent being apprised of such other information, the Company shall assume that this response fully satisfies the Agency's request for information.

Subject to and without waiver of the foregoing objections and general comments, the Company has made a reasonable and diligent search and inquiry for the requested information and responds as follows.

INFORMATION REQUESTED

1. What is the current nature of your activity? What was the nature of your activity during the period 1960 to 1990? Please describe in detail if the nature of your activity changed from the period 1960 to 1990. Please provide a detailed explanation of the changes to date.

ANSWER: Both of the subject locations are Company-operated retail stores. The Company has leased the property located at 8049 Ritchie Highway, Pasadena, MD 21122 since November, 1983 and has leased the property located at 7592 Ritchie Highway, Glen Burnie, MD 21061 since January 21, 1972. During portions of the relevant time period the subject stores were in operation, both typically would have sold tires, batteries, and automobile accessories and performed limited automotive mechanical work.

2. EPA has obtained information during the course of its investigation indicating that you may have produced waste which was disposed of at the Site, and/or disposed of waste at the Site referenced in this letter. Please provide the following information regarding all wastes and by-products produced by you during the period 1960 to 1990:
 - a. The nature of each "waste" (as the term "waste" is defined in paragraph 6 of the definitions attached hereto) used including its chemical content, characteristics and physical state (i.e., liquid, solid, gas, or in the form of contaminated rags, cups, containers). Provide chemical analyses and Material Safety Data Sheets ("MSDS"). If these analyses are not available for the period 1960 through 1990, submit analyses for the time period closest to these dates and describe, in detail, any changes in the process(es) in which these wastes were produced that would affect the chemical analyses;
 - b. The annual quantity of each "waste" used or generated;
 - c. The process(es) in which each "waste" was used or the process(es) that generated each;
 - d. The types of containers used to treat, store, or dispose of each "waste"; and
 - e. The method of treatment and/or disposal of each "waste".

ANSWER: As stated above, the Company denies that the information provided by the Agency establishes a nexus between the Company and the Site which would trigger potential CERCLA liability on the part of the Company. Further, following a reasonable and diligent search and inquiry, the Company has not identified any document or other information from its own files to date which refers or relates to the Site or which tends to indicate that the Company in any way was responsible for the contamination referred to in the request. To the extent that this request purports to seek information not related to the subject Site, the Company objects to the request as being overly broad, unduly burdensome, irrelevant, arbitrary, capricious, oppressive and calculated to cause harassment. The Company further objects on the grounds that, to the extent the request seeks information regarding the Company's operations and waste disposal practices generally, the request is beyond the scope of the Agency's authority. Subject to and without waiver of these objections, following a diligent search and inquiry and due in part to the remoteness of the time period in question, the Company has been unable to locate any documents or other information responsive to this request including all sub-parts. Based upon the Company's knowledge of similar operations during the subject time frame, typical wastes for the facilities which are the subject of this request would include used motor oil and other automotive fluids, scrap tires, scrap automotive batteries, paper, trash, and

garbage. At the 8049 Ritchie Highway location, during at least part of the relevant time period, it is believed that trash was handled by BFI Trash Haulers, scrap batteries were picked up by General Battery, waste oil was picked up by J&L Industries, and scrap tires were picked up by a used casing hauler. Otherwise, the identities of waste haulers are presently unknown as are the dates and details of such transactions.

3. Provide the names, titles, areas of responsibility, addresses, and telephone numbers of all personnel during the period of 1960 to 1990 who may have:
 - a. Disposed of or treated "waste" at the Site;
 - b. Arranged for the disposal or treatment of "waste" at the Site; and
 - c. Arranged for the transportation of "waste" to the Site (either directly or through transshipment points) for disposal or treatment.

ANSWER: As stated above, the Company denies that the information provided by the Agency establishes a nexus between the Company and the Site which would trigger potential CERCLA liability on the part of the Company. Further, following a reasonable and diligent search and inquiry, and due in part to the remoteness of the time period in question, the Company has not identified any document or other information from its own files to date which refers or relates to the Site, which tends to indicate that the Company is in any way responsible for the contamination at the Site or which is responsive to this request including all sub-parts.

4. Describe the methods used by you to dispose and/or treat "waste" during the period 1960 to 1990.

ANSWER: See response to Request No. 2.

5. If your response to question 4 includes the contracting of a hauler or transporter to transport and/or dispose of wastes, explain the arrangements for those transactions, and provide documentation that confirms the nature of those transactions.

ANSWER: See response to Request No. 4.

6. Did your activity make arrangements with any of the following companies: Robb Tyler, Inc., Herb Robertson, Modern Trash, Modern, Inc., North Point Trash Removal, Warren Parker Hauling, Refuse Disposal Inc., F.P.R. Bohager Company, Donald Siejack, Henry Siejack, Debris Disposal, Lawrence Jendras, Browning-Ferris Industries, Jerome Cross, Cross Efficient Trash Removal Service, Inc., F.A. Sauer & Son, and Modern Trashmoval, Inc. to transport and/or dispose of wastes?

If so, identify:

- a. The persons with whom you, or such other persons, made such arrangements;
- b. Every date on which such arrangements took place;
- c. For each transaction, the nature and quantity of the "waste" including the chemical content, characteristics, physical state (i.e., liquid, solid), and the process for which the substance was used or the process that generated the substance;
- d. Precise locations at which each "waste" was disposed or treated;
- e. The persons who selected the Site as the place at which "waste" was disposed or treated;
- f. The final disposition of each of the "wastes" involved in such transactions; and
- g. The names of employees, officers, owner and agents for each transporter.

ANSWER: To the extent that this request purports to seek information not related to the subject Site, the Company objects to the request as being overly broad, unduly burdensome, irrelevant, arbitrary, capricious, oppressive and calculated to cause harassment. The Company further objects on the grounds that, to the extent the request seeks information regarding the Company's operations and waste disposal practices generally, the request is beyond the scope of the Agency's authority. Subject to and without waiver of these objections, following a reasonable and diligent search and inquiry and due in part to the remoteness of the time period in question, the Company has not identified any document or other information to indicate that the subject locations did business with any of the listed individuals or entities or which is otherwise responsive to this request including all sub-parts.

7. For each and every instance in which your activity arranged for disposal or treatment of "waste" at the Site identify;
 - a. The characteristics, physical state (i.e., liquid, solid) and chemical composition of each "waste";
 - b. The persons who supplied you with "waste" material disposed or otherwise handled by you;
 - c. How such "wastes" were used, treated, transported, disposed or otherwise handled by you;

- d. When and where such “wastes” were used, treated, transported, disposed or otherwise handled by you;
- e. The quantity (number of loads, gallons, drums) of the “wastes” which were used, treated, transported, disposed or otherwise handled by you; and
- f. Any billing information and documents (invoices, trip tickets, manifests) in your possession regarding arrangements made with your activity to generate, treat, store, transport or dispose of “wastes” at the Site.

ANSWER: As stated above, the Company denies that the information provided by the Agency establishes a nexus between the Company and the Site which would trigger potential CERCLA liability on the part of the Company. Further, following a reasonable and diligent search and inquiry, the Company has not identified any document or other information from its own files to date which refers or relates to the Site, which tends to indicate that the Company is in any way responsible for the contamination of the Site or which is responsive to this request including all sub-parts.

8. Provide the names, titles and areas of responsibility of any persons, including all present and former employees, who may be knowledgeable of your waste disposal practices, whether or not involving disposal at the Site, during the period 1960 to 1990. Include current addresses and dates of birth for former employees.

ANSWER: To the extent that this request purports to seek information not related to the subject Site, the Company objects to the request as being overly broad, unduly burdensome, irrelevant, arbitrary, capricious, oppressive and calculated to cause harassment. The Company further objects on the grounds that, to the extent the request seeks information regarding the Company’s operations and waste disposal practices generally, the request is beyond the scope of the Agency’s authority. Subject to and without waiver of these objections, following a reasonable and diligent search and inquiry and, due in part to the remoteness of the time period in question, the Company has not identified any document or other information from its own files to date responsive to this request. The Company has no records identifying employees or former employees at either location for the relevant time period, however, there is some recollection that the former manager of the 7592 Ritchie Highway location in the 1980s may have been Frank Spare. Pension records indicate that Mr. Spare’s address is [REDACTED]. The Company reserves and does not waive any privileges, including those pertaining to attorney/client communications, which may apply to this individual.

9. Describe any permits or applications and any correspondence between you and any regulatory agencies regarding “wastes” transported to or disposed of at the Site.

ANSWER: As stated above, following a reasonable and diligent search and inquiry, the Company has not identified any document or other information from its own files to date which refers or relates to the Site, which tends to indicate that the Company is in any way responsible for the contamination of the Site or which is responsive to this request.

10. Provide copies of any correspondence between you and any third party regarding “wastes” transported to or disposed of at the site.

ANSWER: As stated above, following a reasonable and diligent search and inquiry, the Company has not identified any document or other information from its own files to date which refers or relates to the Site, which tends to indicate that the Company is in any way responsible for the contamination of the Site or which is responsive to this request.

11. Provide the identity of, and copies of any documents relating to, any other person who generated, treated, stored, transported or disposed, or who arranged for the treatment, storage, disposal or transportation of such “wastes” to the Site.

ANSWER: As stated above, following a reasonable and diligent search and inquiry, the Company has not identified any document or other information from its own files to date which refers or relates to the Site, which tends to indicate that the Company is in any way responsible for the contamination of the Site or which is responsive to this request.

12. Provide the identities of all predecessors in interest who, during the period 1960 to present, transported to, stored, treated or otherwise disposed of any “wastes” at the Site and describe in detail the nature of your predecessor in interest’s business. Describe all changes in ownership from 1960 to the present, including the date of the ownership change and identify the type of change (i.e., asset purchase, corporate merger, consolidation, and name change). Provide a copy of each asset purchase and merger agreement.

ANSWER: The Company is unaware of any “predecessors in interest”, as the Company understands this term, related to the operation of the subject facilities.

13. Provide the name, title, address, and telephone number of the person answering these questions on behalf of the respondent.

ANSWER: This is a corporate response signed by outside counsel on behalf of the Company. The response is based upon information provided or researched by Company employees or its counsel and upon records regularly kept by the Company in the ordinary course of business. The Company otherwise objects to this request to the extent that it calls for the inclusion of its attorneys on the grounds that such information is protected from disclosure by privileges pertaining to attorney/client communications, attorney work product, and material prepared for trial or in anticipation of litigation.

14. For each question, provide the name, title, area of responsibility, current address and telephone number of all persons consulted in the preparation of the answers.

ANSWER: As stated above, this is a corporate response signed by outside counsel on behalf of the Company. The response is based upon information provided or researched by Company employees or its counsel and upon records regularly kept by the Company in the ordinary course of business. The Company otherwise objects to this request to the extent that it calls for the inclusion of its attorneys on the grounds that such information is protected from disclosure by privileges pertaining to attorney/client communications, attorney work product, and material prepared for trial or in anticipation of litigation. Subject to and without waiver of these objections, the following individuals were consulted in preparation of these responses: John Sheerin, Esq., Retail Environmental Director, Bridgestone Retail Operations, LLC; Katie Scott, Environmental Department, Bridgestone Retail Operations, LLC.

15. If you have reason to believe that there may be persons able to provide more detailed or complete responses to any question contained herein or who may be able to provide additional responsive documents, provide the names, titles, areas of responsibility, current addresses, and telephone numbers of such persons and describe the additional information or documents they may have.

ANSWER: Following a reasonable and diligent search and inquiry, the Company has no reason to believe that there may be persons able to provide a more detailed or complete response to this request or who may be able to provide additional responsive documents.

16. For each and every question contained herein, if information or documents responsive to this Information Request are not in your possession, custody or control, then provide the names, titles, areas of responsibility, current addresses and telephone numbers of the persons from whom such information or documents may be obtained.

ANSWER: Not applicable.

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17. If you have any information about other parties who may have information which may assist the Agency in its investigation of the Site or who may be responsible for the generation of, transportation to or release of contamination at the Site, please provide such information. The information you provide in response to this request should include each party's name, address, type of business and the reasons why you believe the party may have contributed to the contamination at the Site or may have information regarding the Site.

ANSWER: Following a reasonable and diligent search and inquiry, the Company has no information regarding other persons or parties who may be able to provide additional information to assist the Agency in its investigation.

We trust the foregoing constitutes a sufficient response to the Agency's Information Request. Please direct any future inquiries or correspondence regarding this response to the undersigned. Any other communications regarding this Site should be directed to Heidi Hughes Bumpers, Esq. at Jones, Day, Reavis & Pogue, 51 Louisiana Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20001-2113; telephone: 202-879-7616; facsimile: 202-626-1700; email: hhbumpers@jonesday.com.

Very truly yours,

HANNA, CAMPBELL & POWELL, LLP



David T. Moss

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